

Approved: February 14, 2012

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, January 10, 2011
Held at the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich Carr, Kris Dighe, Anne Goodman, Alicia Hosmer, Beri Kravitz, Devinie Lye and Clark Reed

Commissioners Absent: None

Guests: Mark Charles, Environmental Management
Erica Shingara, Environmental Management

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:31 pm by Chair Dighe.

Sustainable Maryland Certified

Erica Shingara briefed the Commission on Rockville's ongoing efforts to pursue this certification from the Maryland Municipal League and the University of Maryland. There are 21 other jurisdictions also pursuing this certification.

Erica redistributed the matrix of the steps required to secure points toward certification and confirmed dates by which the factsheet-descriptions would be finished. To date, factsheet descriptions for 35 of the 150 points needed for certification have already been submitted. We expect to have the remaining factsheets completed by the end of March and hope to be one of the first cities certified.

The initiative website is now up and running. The Citizen Survey instrument is available to anyone who lives or works in the City. To date, 38 people have taken the 10 minute survey. It will remain available through February 10, 2012 and Environmental Management hopes to present preliminary results at the February Commission meeting.

A brainstorming session on the Vision Statement for the sustainability program will be scheduled for the February 2012 meeting.

High Performance Building Tax Credit

Erica Shingara also briefed the Commission on the status of the high performance (green building) tax credit proposal. The Mayor and Council instructed staff to develop a draft ordinance (City Code Chapter 22) to authorize the tax credit in time for inclusion in the FY 2013 budget. In a second step, the Mayor and Council will have to include the specific (general fund) dollars supporting the tax credit in the FY 2013 budget itself. The ordinance is expected to be introduced at the January 23 Mayor and Council meeting. The Commission is invited to attend and speak on behalf of the proposal.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved by acclamation with two corrections.

Environmental Excellence Awards

The Commission revisited the tabled nomination for the Montgomery College Science Center and determined that it could not process the nomination because the College has indicated that it does not intend to pay its 2011 stormwater utility fee. Chair Dighe will write a letter to the College explaining the situation.

Strategic Planning

The Commission reviewed the results of the member poll on priority activities and went through an exercise in reducing the number of priority actions and initiatives to a manageable level (see attached *2012 Draft Workplan*). This Workplan will be finalized at the next (February) meeting and the implementation implications for Commission structure and organization will be discussed.

Environment Commission 2012 Draft Workplan

Events	Near Term Projects	Longer Term Initiatives
Participate in <i>Hometown Holidays</i> and engage in public awareness and outreach; Seek volunteers	Prepare factsheets on activities and accomplishments in preparation for submission to Sustainable Maryland	Serve as the Green Team for Sustainable Maryland Certification
Conduct clean ups of the stream segment (Maryvale Creek) adopted by the Commission	Testify in favor of the Green Building Tax Credit proposal. If adopted, assist in bringing the credit to the attention of the business community	Improve the City's overall residential recycling rate. Improve recycling facilities at City sponsored events and celebrations; and along bike trails and recreation centers
Participate in Earth Day/Month Observances	Review proposals to amend the City building code making it more stringent regarding green features required of new construction and renovations	Develop a relationship with environmental clubs at City schools. Identify projects to partner on with other organizations
Meet the Mayor and Council and explain historic purpose and role of the Commission		
Participate in semi-annual meetings with other Env. Boards and Commissions from other Cities	Assist with the scoping and development of an environmental element for the Rockville Comprehensive Master Land Use Plan	

Environmental Management Report

The City has again committed to purchase wind power for 60% of our electrical needs.

There are currently three staff position vacancies (two part-time and one full-time). Mark Charles discussed plans to fill at least two of these. An announcement of the successful candidate for at least one and possibly two of these positions is expected at the next meeting.

Mr. Charles also discussed the status of the *Recycling and Refuse* video and distributed a list of *Earth Month* activities which the Commission is invited to attend and participate in.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room** of the **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. The public is invited to attend.